

THE PLAN CHANGED.

City Democratic Committee So Alters It as to Allow a Direct Vote.

BALLOTS WILL CONTAIN NAMES.
Bitter Fight to Get the Substitute—
Pay of the Registrars Increased—
Other Immaterial Amendments Made—Workingmen's Convention.

At its meeting last night the City Democratic Committee altered the plan for the primary in a most important respect. The ballots are to contain a list of all the officers proposed by the Epps resolution to be elected by the people, and each voter may specify which officers he wishes, or does not wish, elected by a direct vote of the people. Other changes, which are of but little importance, were made.

The committee was called to order promptly by Chairman Dawson, and the attendance of members was quite large. Under the head of new business, Mr. Jarvis moved that the action of the committee on last Tuesday night in fixing a time for the primary be reconsidered. The chair ruled that Mr. Jarvis could not make such a motion, upon the ground that he had voted against the original motion.

Mr. Wood moved that the question be reconsidered, and also that the question of pay for the election judges be reopened for discussion.

Mr. Coalter offered as a substitute that the whole question of the primary plan adopted at the last meeting be reconsidered.

WANTED SOMETHING SPECIFIC.
Mr. Coalter's substitute was accepted, but, before it was voted on, Mr. Coalter stated by way of explanation that the plan adopted, especially that portion relating to changing the city charter so as to elect certain city officials by popular vote, would amount to nothing. The legislative delegates had not been instructed as to how the city charter should be changed, or amended. Mr. Coalter added that a plan ought to be adopted instructing the delegates how the charter should be changed. Specifications should be made, so the delegates would know how to act to represent the wishes of the people.

Secretary Wallace then called attention to the fact that Mr. Coalter had voted in the negative at the last meeting, and the chair ruled that as Mr. Coalter was such a Mr. Coalter was in order.

Mr. Wallace then asked for a recorded vote, which was accordingly taken, and Mr. Coalter's substitute was rejected by a large majority, only two members voting against—Messrs. Wallace and Murray.

THE COMMITTEES HEARD.
It was then moved that a committee from the Therman and Old Dominion Democratic clubs be allowed the privilege of the floor. This was voted down by a vote of 14 to 7.

Messrs. Morris and McKenny opposed the resolutions of the representatives of the two Democratic clubs upon the grounds that such action would be a bad precedent to establish. There was some discussion upon the question, but the committee was elected by the City Democratic Committee, while the advocates of the measure thought it would be a slam on the two clubs not to allow their representatives to attend the meeting of the committee.

Mr. Dawson (Mr. Wallace in the chair) thought the representatives of the two clubs ought to be admitted. They could come in and say what they had to say, and the committee taking any part in the proceedings of the committee or remaining at the meeting during the transaction of business.

ASKED FOR A CHANGE.
The delegation was admitted, and presented to the committee a series of resolutions asking that the committee be authorized to modify the plan for the Democratic primary to be held October 8th, so as to submit to the people the question of changing the city charter so as to elect certain city officials by popular vote, the same officers to be nominated at a Democratic primary, or otherwise, as the City Committee may deem advisable. These officers to include, in addition to those officers now elected by the people, City Engineer, City Attorney, Superintendent of City Gas-Works, Superintendent of City Water-Works, Superintendent of City Alms-House, Chief of Police, Police Justice, Chief of Fire Department, and Fire and Police Commissioners.

MINOR CHANGES.
The communication from the two Democratic clubs was read before the committee, and the delegation then withdrew. An effort was then made to change the date of the primary from October 8th to October 1st, upon the ground that the Virginia Exposition would open on October 8th. The committee decided, however, to let the date, as already fixed, remain unchanged.

Quite a discussion arose over the question of changing the amount to be paid the election officers for their services on the day of the primary.

It was argued that the registrars should be paid \$50 each, while the other members of the committee thought all ought to be paid alike.

It was finally decided that the registrars should receive \$5 and the judges and clerks \$2.50 each for their services.

MR. GORDON'S PROPOSITION.
The question of submitting the matter of amending the city charter to a popular vote was discussed at length. Mr. James W. Gordon submitted the following: "Whereas, a large number of the Democratic voters of the city of Richmond have signified a desire to express their opinion as to the election of certain city officials by direct vote of the people, instead of by the Common Council:

"Resolved, That on the ticket to be used at the primary election on the 8th day of October, 1895, there shall be printed the following officers: viz—Board of Fire Commissioners, Board of Police Commissioners, Chief of Fire Department, Superintendent of Gas-Works, Chief of Police, City Attorney, City Engineer, Police Justice, Superintendent of Water-Works, and Superintendent of Alms-House, above which shall be printed these words: 'Scratch the names of the officers whom you desire to be elected as at present, leaving those whom you desire to be elected by the direct vote of the people.'"

Mr. Gordon's motion was seconded, and he stated that it was evident that the portion of the committee's plan bearing upon this question was not in accordance with the desires of the people. He thought that the only way to do away with confusion and at the same time get at the sentiment of the people was to adopt the measure which he offered.

WANTED THE BOARDS ADDED.
Mr. Morris spoke at length on the subject, and stated that he wished the Boards of Police and Fire Commissioners to be struck out of Mr. Gordon's resolution.

Mr. Wallace said that after mature consideration he was convinced that the people wanted to have the privilege of voting upon the question of electing all the officers named by Mr. Gordon's resolution should be put upon the ticket. He did not think the committee ought to provide for the question of electing officers being elected and leaving of others.

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